

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2635

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, US, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN COMMENT ON SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP TO
MOSCOW

1. ROMANIAN MEDIA HAVE GENERALLY IGNORED SECRETARY'S
RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW AND ITS AFTERMATH. ONLY
ARTICLE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO DATE IS BURIED ON PAGE 18
OF APRIL 7 "LUMEA," WEEKLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS, WHICH GIVES LOW KEY TREATMENT TO
VISIT BUT ESSENTIALLY EMPHASIZES SOVIET VIEWS.
ARTICLE NOTES MAJOR POINTS OF GROMYKO PRESS CON-
FERENCE, PRAVDA ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMED US SOUGHT
UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE, AND BREZHNEV CALL TO US TO
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RENOUNCE "UNILATERAL" STANCE, BALANCED ONLY BY
SHORT EXCERPTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CON-
FERENCE COMMENTS.

2. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 5 WITH AMBASSADOR,
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE SAID HE WAS POSI-
TIVELY IMPRESSED BY EMPHASIS WE ARE PLACING ON

ACTUAL STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES, POSITIONS WHICH ACCORD WITH ROMANIA'S LONG-STANDING VIEWS. BOTH, HE SAID, ARE VERY POSITIVE WAYS OF PREPARING THE GROUND FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. PACOSTE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION THAT SOVIETS MIGHT BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON OUR SALT PROPOSALS THAN GROMYKO'S PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARED TO SHOW, AND HE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS HAVING THE BRZEZINSKI PRESS CONFERENCE TRANSLATED FOR READING BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU WAS MUCH LESS FORTHCOMING DURING CONVERSATION APRIL 8. IN REPLY TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, MINISTER SAID ROMANIA FELT NO NEED TO COMMENT, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT DID NOT KNOW DETAILS OF US PROPOSAL AND MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS. GOR HOPES FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION AND IS UNHAPPY WHEN RELATIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE GOING WELL. THEREFORE, "WHY PUT OUR FUEL ON THE (PRESENT) FIRE?" MACOVESCU DESCRIBED GOR'S GENERAL POSITION ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS BUT COVERED NO NEW GROUND. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S POINT THAT SINCE NEW US INITIATIVES APPEAR TO BE IN ACCORD WITH ROMANIAN VIEWS WE ARE SURPRISED AT LACK OF PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM HERE, MACOVESCU REPLIED ONLY THAT GOR IS IN FAVOR OF ANY CONCRETE MEASURE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO GENUINE DISARMAMENT AND WOULD BE WATCHING FURTHER US MOVES
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CLOSELY.

4. COMMENT. MACOVESCU WAS CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE DURING THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION, PROBABLY BECAUSE GOR HAS DECIDED FOR TIME BEING NOT TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOVIET STAND. GIVEN CEAUSESCU'S CONSTANT STRESS ON ARMS REDUCTION AND NOT JUST ARMS LIMITATION, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER WE OUGHT TO BEGIN TO PICK UP SOME SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE FROM ROMANIA.
BARNES

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